



## Expert panel on the programme of work in population<sup>1</sup>

Thursday, 2 May 2024, 10:00-11:30 a.m. EDT

### Concept Note

#### Introduction

The expert panel will examine the following documents prepared for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development:

- Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2023: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2024/5), and
- Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022 and draft proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance for 2023: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (E/CN.9/2024/CRP.1).

#### Background

The aim of the subprogramme on population is to improve knowledge of global population trends, advance an evidence-based understanding of interactions between population change and sustainable development among policymakers and the public, and strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda.

The report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2023 describes the activities of the Population Division in analysing global trends in fertility, mortality, migration, urbanization and population ageing; preparing global population estimates and projections; monitoring population policies; analysing linkages between population and sustainable development; disseminating population data and

<sup>1</sup> Item 4 of the provisional agenda entitled "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population" (<https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.9/2024/1>).

information; providing technical assistance and capacity development to Member States; and supporting intergovernmental processes.

As documented in the report, key achievements of the work programme during 2023 included two in-depth reports addressing current and future demographic issues facing developing countries, in particular: (1) *World Population Ageing 2023: Challenges and opportunities of population ageing in the least developed countries*; and (2) *Population prospects of countries in special situations: Tracking demographic changes among the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States*. Other notable initiatives included marking the occasion of India overtaking China as the world's most populous country, as well as numerous technical cooperation activities carried out to support Member States.

The note by the Secretariat on the programme plan and programme performance provides (a)-the programme of work for 2024; (b)-an overview of key deliverables for 2022, 2023 and 2024; and (c) the draft programme of work for 2025. The Commission is invited to consider and take note of the programme plan narrative and deliverables to be included in the proposed programme plan and budget for 2025.

### **Format**

The moderator will introduce the panellists and highlight key elements of the report by the Secretary-General and of the Note by the Secretariat. Panellists will be invited to address, selectively, the guiding questions (see below). Member of the Commission, observers and civil society organizations are encouraged to ask questions or raise issues in reaction to the preceding discussion. Reading from prepared statements is discouraged. The panellists will briefly respond to the questions and issues raised by delegations, after which the moderator will make brief closing remarks.

### Guiding questions for the panellists

- From your perspective, what were some of the highlights of the subprogramme on population during 2023?
- Has the work on population in 2023 improved the accessibility of population data and provided relevant analyses of population trends that can guide Member States in elaborating their development policies? How does this work support Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?
- From your national and regional perspectives, what were some of the most notable or salient activities of the 2023 work programme on population?
- Which key global, regional and national demographic trends should receive greater attention in the future work programme on population?

- How can we encourage Member States to consider population dynamics and policies in preparing National Voluntary Reviews in the context of the High-Level Political Forum?
- How can we encourage the consideration of population dynamics during the Summit of the Future, to be convened by the General Assembly in September 2024?
- What are some needs at the national level that could be addressed by the capacity development activities undertaken by the Population Division?

### **Outcome**

The discussion will be summarized in the report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council shortly after the closure of the session. The deliberations and recommendations of the panel will also assist the Population Division in shaping its future work programme.